

REMARKS

Claims 1-14, 15, and 18-24 remain pending in the application. Claims 15, 20 and 24 have been amended and minor clarifying amendments have been made to claims 1, 18 and 19. Claims 16 and 17 have been cancelled, without prejudice. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants respectfully acknowledge the Examiner's the allowance of claims 1-14. In this response, a minor clarifying amendment has been made to claim 1 to correct a typographical spelling error in the preamble of the claim as filed. The amendment, therefore, does not impact the scope or content of the allowed claims.

DRAWINGS

The drawings stand objected to for certain informalities. Applicants have attached revised drawings for the Examiner's approval. In the Replacement Sheet No. 4/4 FIG. 5 has been amended to add the reference number 152 for the retaining portion, and to correct the cross-hatching for the retaining portion 152 and the PCB 104' so as to be consistent with FIG. 4.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 15-18, 19, 20, 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Johnson (U.S. Pat. No. 3,294,929). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Johnson fails to disclose an electrical conductor comprising a tube having a longitudinal axis and terminating in a closed end that is biased along the longitudinal axis toward the slot on the printed circuit board, as amended Claim 15 recites. Johnson discloses a spring biasing a lateral surface perpendicularly to the longitudinal axis of the cylindrical contact 51 against another contact 36a. At least for this reason, claim 15, and claims 18, 19, 20, and 22 that depend from claim 15, are not anticipated by Johnson. Furthermore, Johnson fails to disclose a spring that has one end received in the tube, as amended claim 20 recites. Therefore, claim 20 is not anticipated by Johnson for this additional reason. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of claims 15, 18, 19, 20 and 22 is respectfully requested. Claims 16 and 17 are cancelled without prejudice.

Claim 24 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Lemire (U.S. Pat. No. 6,225,580). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Lemire fails to disclose that the first conductor comprises a tube terminating in a hemispherical end and that one end of each spring is received in the tube, as amended claim 24 recites. Therefore, claim 24 is not anticipated by Lemire, and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 24 is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 21 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson in view of Black (U.S. Pat. No. 3,686,449). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 21 and 23 depend from amended claim 15, which, as discussed above, is considered to be patentable over the cited references. Without acknowledging that Black may properly be combined with Johnson, it is respectfully submitted that any such combination fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of each of claims 21 and 23. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the foregoing rejection of claims 21 and 23 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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